

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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**President Obama on World Press Freedom Day**

03 May 2012

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
May 3, 2012

**Statement by the President on World Press Freedom Day**

On this World Press Freedom Day, the United States honors the role of a free press in creating sustainable democracies and prosperous societies. We pay special tribute to those journalists who have sacrificed their lives, freedom or personal well-being in pursuit of truth and justice.

Over sixty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed the right of every person “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,” that right remains in peril in far too many countries.

While this year has seen some positive developments, like the release of journalists along with hundreds of other political prisoners in Burma, arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists continue across the globe. As we condemn recent detentions of journalists like Mazen Darwish, a leading proponent of free speech in Syria, and call for their immediate release, we must not forget others like blogger Dieu Cay, whose 2008 arrest coincided with a mass crackdown on citizen journalism in Vietnam, or journalist Dawit Isaak who has been held incommunicado by the Eritrean government for over a decade without formal charge or trial.

Threats and harassment, like that endured by Ecuadorian journalist Cesar Ricaurte and exiled Belarusian democratic activist Natalya Radzina, and indirect censorship, including through restrictions on freedom of movement like those imposed on Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez, continue to have a chilling effect on freedom of expression and the press. We call on all governments to protect the ability of journalists, bloggers, and dissidents to write and speak freely without retribution and to stop the use of travel bans and other indirect forms of censorship to suppress the exercise of these universal rights.

In some cases, it is not just governments threatening the freedom of the press. It is also criminal gangs, terrorists, or political factions. No matter the cause, when journalists are intimidated, attacked, imprisoned, or disappeared, individuals begin to self-censor, fear replaces truth, and all of our societies suffer. A culture of impunity for such actions must not be allowed to persist in any country.

This year, across the Middle East, North Africa and beyond, the world witnessed not only these perils, but also the promise that a free press holds for fostering innovative, successful, and stable democracies. On this World Press Freedom Day, we call upon all governments to seize that promise by recognizing the vital role of a free press and taking the necessary steps to create societies in which independent journalists can operate freely and without fear.

**Deaths of Somali Journalists Mar Press Freedom Day**

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 03 May 2012

Washington — The murders of two Somali journalists since May 1 are a sober reminder of the dangers of the journalistic craft, as free governments and international organizations recognize World Press Freedom Day May 3.

“The most recent murder, that of Radio Simba's Farhan Jeemis Abdulle, occurred just yesterday [May 2] on the eve of World Press Freedom Day,” said U.S. Special Representative for Somalia James C. Swan in a statement released from the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, emphasizing that five Somali journalists have been killed in 2012, and the terrorist group al-Shabaab is suspected in their deaths.

“Some — like freelance journalist Bashiir Mohamed Salaad, killed by a terrorist attack in Dhusamareb on May 1 while covering a political meeting — died while bravely trying to practice their craft,” said the Swan statement. “Others — like Hassan Osman Abdi, the director of Radio Shabelle — appear to have been targeted specifically because they were journalists.”

Swan quoted a statement from a Somali journalism association that al-Shabaab forcibly took over Radio Markabley in Baardheere town, replacing news broadcasts with propaganda about the group's agenda. He said crimes victimizing journalists and their organizations must be investigated.

“The United States is committed to working with responsible Somali authorities to help bring an end to the culture of impunity and violence that threatens both the lives of Somalis and their universally recognized right to freedom of expression,” the statement said. “There is simply too much at risk not to tackle these threats head-on.”

The Swan statement echoed the tone of President Obama's statement on World Press Freedom Day.

“In some cases, it is not just governments threatening the freedom of the press. It is also criminal gangs, terrorists, or political factions,” the May 3 statement said. “No matter the cause, when journalists are intimidated, attacked, imprisoned, or disappeared, individuals begin

to self-censor, fear replaces truth, and all of our societies suffer. A culture of impunity for such actions must not be allowed to persist in any country."

The president's statement also drew attention to the cases of press abuse in various countries and paid "tribute to those journalists who have sacrificed their lives, freedom or personal well-being in pursuit of truth and justice."

The State Department marked World Press Freedom Day by highlighting individuals whose experiences demonstrate that press freedom is endangered in various parts of the world on [www.humanrights.gov](http://www.humanrights.gov).

The success of online media in the events of 2011's Arab Awakening is frequently cited as the potential for sudden outbreaks of freedom of the press, but that story too has a counterpoint. The Tunisian government is hosting international World Press Freedom events May 3, the same day television executive Nabil Karoui of Nessma TV was convicted of "disturbing public order" and "threatening public morals" by broadcasting the French movie *Persepolis*. The animated film contains a briefly seen image of God; many Muslims find depictions of God to be offensive. Karoui's case was considered a test of how much reform has really occurred in Tunisia, the nation where the region's uprisings began.

With "disappointment and concern," Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer noted the conviction in Tunis where she is leading the U.S. delegation to the Press Freedom Day events. "His conviction raises serious concerns about tolerance and freedom of expression in the new Tunisia. I understand that Mr. Karoui has the right to appeal his conviction, and hope that mechanism will result in a clear endorsement of the right to free expression."

The U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Gordon Gray, also issued a statement condemning the decision, making the point that the Tunisian government had previously approved distribution of the film. "His conviction raises serious concerns about tolerance and freedom of expression in the new Tunisia," Gray said.

World Press Freedom Day was also recognized at a session in Vienna of the Organization for Security and Economic Co-operation in Europe. U.S. envoy Ian Kelly cited governments' responsibilities to defend press freedom as a fundamental principal of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "Attacks and murders of journalists go unpunished, and governments are not taking necessary steps to end the climate of impunity for these crimes," Kelly said. "As we have repeatedly stated, protecting the safety of journalists remains one of our most important and urgent challenges in the OSCE's Human Dimension. Whenever the flow of news,

information and views is restricted, individual citizens suffer. Societies suffer. Economies suffer. Trust between nations suffers, too."

## **U.S. and China Address Strategic, Economic Interests in Beijing**

By Phillip Kurata | Staff Writer | 03 May 2012

Washington — The United States and China have opened far-reaching talks in Beijing aimed at expanding and deepening cooperation on strategic and economic issues.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in her opening remarks at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue that the two countries have become "thoroughly, inescapably interdependent" since the dialogue was initiated in 2009.

"A thriving China is good for America, and a thriving America is good for China," she said in Beijing May 3. She added that the two governments do not always agree, but without their cooperation, it is "doubtful" that any global problem can be solved.

The secretary said that in the strategic portion of the dialogue, the two countries are discussing how to promote greater military transparency to avoid misunderstandings, to build trust and maintain mutual stability, and how to tackle some of the world's most urgent crises from climate change to proliferation.

Clinton noted that the United States and China have expanded their EcoPartnerships, voluntary arrangements involving state, local and private sector groups to spur innovation, investment and engagement on clean energy and the environment. Clinton visited an exhibit of clean cookstoves manufactured and used in China and offered her congratulations to China for joining the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.

"This illustrates ... that the United States and China can and will work together in new ways and through many channels to address our common challenges on energy and the environment," she said.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said that when the United States and China convened the first strategic and economic dialogue in 2009, the global economy was facing its most serious threat in decades. "We worked together to put out the fires of the global financial crisis, and today the world is a better place," he said.

Geithner said the United States is working to put its economic house in order by repairing the damage from the financial crisis and implementing a comprehensive program of reforms to improve education, scientific research and education, and investment incentives.

He said that China is facing a “new reality”: that it must rely more on domestic consumption than on exports to grow its economy. It will need to encourage innovation by private companies in an economy “more open to competition from foreign firms, and with a more modern financial system,” he said.

The United States is committed to working closely with China “to build a stronger economic relationship and to build a stronger framework for cooperation on global economic issues,” Geithner said.

### **Secretary Clinton on National League for Democracy, Parliament in Burma**

02 May 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
May 2, 2012

#### **STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON**

Burma - National League for Democracy and Parliament

Only eighteen months ago, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest. Today, the pro-democracy leader and several other members of the National League for Democracy have taken their newly won seats in Burma’s parliament. For the first time in the country’s history, Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her party will have a role and voice in government.

I would like to send my congratulations to these pro-democracy leaders, other newly elected Members of Parliament, and the hundreds of thousands of voters for their courage and commitment to achieving a more representative and responsive government. President Thein Sein and his government have also taken important strides toward democracy and national reconciliation.

This is an important moment for Burma's future. A genuine transition toward multi-party democracy leading to general elections in 2015 will help build a more prosperous society. I encourage all political parties, civil society representatives and ethnic minority leaders to work together to address challenges and seize new opportunities for a more democratic, free, peaceful, and prosperous future.

### **Students Become Diplomats at Model United Nations**

By Lauren Monsen | Staff Writer | 02 May 2012

Washington — When nearly 700 students from 45 Washington-area high schools and middle schools convened May 1 at the U.S. Department of State, they quickly demonstrated their grasp of complex international issues such as the plight of child soldiers

and the human rights of migrant workers, among other challenges.

The students might have passed for junior diplomats — and, in effect, that’s what they were. As participants in the ninth annual United Nations Association Global Classrooms Model United Nations (U.N.) Conference, hosted by the State Department, the students attended different sessions to represent the positions of 91 countries on seemingly intractable problems that real U.N. diplomats have been wrestling with for years.

One group of high school students, composing a model U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) committee, tackled the issue of child soldiers — a persistent concern in war-torn regions, where militias often forcibly recruit minors into combat. Following the U.N.’s recognized rules of procedure, the students rose to their feet, one by one, to state their countries’ views on how best to counter the practice.

A student representing the Russian Federation outlined one of the principal difficulties posed by the issue. “There’s a gray area” of how to differentiate child soldiers from adult combatants, he said. “There are roughly 15 countries” that use child soldiers, “but it might be because they don’t agree on what child soldiers are.” Students representing India and Indonesia stated, in turn, that no one under the age of 18 should be allowed to participate in war.

Another student, representing Afghanistan, noted that in his country many people don’t have birth certificates, so verifying the age of young combatants can be all but impossible.

Several students stressed the need for programs that rehabilitate child soldiers and reintegrate them into their communities. “We’re focusing on disarmament, demobilization, and long-term remedial and psychological care” for children traumatized by combat, said a young man representing Iran.

Prosecution of warlords who recruit child soldiers was also discussed, as was the role of nongovernmental organizations in helping children recover from their ordeals.

Israel’s Model U.N. representative — Leslie Ogu, 17, a junior at McKinley Technology High School — observed that Israel has already changed the minimum age for military recruitment to 18, adding: “We’d like to work with UNICEF to help child soldiers” overcome their wartime trauma, “including girls.” As one student pointed out, young girls seized by warlords are not only pressed into combat but are usually exploited sexually, which compounds their suffering.



The session, chaired by volunteer Joel Antwi, a 22-year-old senior at American University, also directed students to break into smaller groups — called caucuses — so they could negotiate with representatives of different countries to seek support for their own countries' positions: the first step in achieving an agreement, U.N.-style.

Observing U.N. protocols and drafting resolutions, said Antwi, shows students how the U.N. operates and helps them understand the role of diplomacy in addressing difficult issues.

Ogu agreed, and said the Model U.N. Conference has given him a stronger awareness of world affairs. "I've learned way more than I expected to," he said. "I've learned how this issue affects different countries." He said he hopes to become a lawyer and explained that researching the topic of child soldiers has sparked his interest in legal issues affecting children.

Lisa Lee, a 17-year-old junior at Dominion High School, said her Model U.N. involvement has boosted her confidence and skills. "I've been to two other Model U.N. conferences this year," she said. The experience complements her debate-team activities at school, Lee said: "I'm now more comfortable with public speaking."

Model U.N. participation "offers good preparation for college," said Antwi. "It gets students thinking critically on complex issues. I've participated since high school, and I'm now a volunteer. The first year I'd done this, I was very impressed with the level of debate. Kids have to research each country's position."

In the United States, "we see things from a certain perspective, but other countries have very different perspectives," he said. "The Model U.N. broadens students' horizons, and teaches them that some problems don't have easy solutions."

### **Warmer Arctic Brings Opportunities and Risk, Experts Say**

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 02 May 2012

Washington — Warmer temperatures causing global climate change are recorded month after month, but the greatest evidence of environmental change appears in the Arctic. Increased summer melt of the Arctic Ocean is opening new navigable sea lanes, creating both new opportunities and new risks for the nations with interests in the northernmost ocean.

"We sort of think of this as a new ocean opening up for the first time in 500 years," said U.S. Naval Rear Admiral David Titley, speaking on a discussion panel at a science conference sponsored by the American Geophysical Union in Washington May 1.

"A massive transformation," University of Calgary professor Rob Huebert described the changes in store for the Arctic's increasing summer ice melt. "We're seeing a transformation on the physical side the likes of which as a human species we haven't seen before." Huebert is a coauthor of the newly released report *Climate Change & International Security: The Arctic as a Bellwether*, prepared for the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

Titley agreed with Huebert's prediction of transformation as a result of new open waters at the top of the world. "Water where there used to be ice, that changes shipping. It changes how Russia probably thinks about their northern flank. It changes resource extraction, so it really is quite a different world," Titley said.

A variety of industries will see opportunities to make greater use of Arctic resources, panel members agreed, including oil and gas extraction, tourism, shipping and fishing. This development will have inevitable impacts on the 4 million people who inhabit the Arctic region and the eight nations considered Arctic States: Canada; the United States; Greenland, a self-governing country in the Kingdom of Denmark; Norway; Finland; Iceland; Russia and Sweden. These eight are members of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum created by mutual agreement in 1996 as a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the members.

Some estimates calculate that 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil is in the Arctic, and 30 percent of the undiscovered natural gas. As Arctic opportunities grow for profit and exploration, so grows the potential for disagreement and conflict as nations and the interests they represent compete for claims. Nations bordering on the Caribbean Sea share the waters agreeably, Titley pointed out, demonstrating cooperation around a shared resource is possible.

With opportunity for greater profit comes risk. The Arctic is a hostile operating climate with limited mapping and an array of dangers including harsh temperatures and inexact techniques for forecasting ice strength and movement of sea ice. More economic activity will invariably mean that more people will be at risk to these uncertainties.

With cruise ship operators already making more trips into the Arctic sea lanes that have opened in the last several seasons, Titley warned that a "Titanic-like disaster" is going to happen at some point in polar waters.

Cruise ship operators attract customers wanting to see icebergs and Arctic animals up close, sailing into uncharted waters to do so, despite the potential for hazards just below the surface. Several cruise ships have already run into trouble in Arctic and Antarctic waters,

with survivors rescued only because other ships with the capacity to rescue happened to be nearby. Admiral Titley said as cruise liners increase their sailings into these waters, another stricken vessel won't be so lucky.

"Hope is not a great strategy when you are dealing with search and rescue," said Titley, and "at some point, someday, [a disaster] is going to happen."

The U.S. Coast Guard has limited capacity for search and rescue in the Arctic and Antarctica. Huebert also said the International Maritime Organization has not set higher standards for enclosing lifeboats on ships cruising cold waters, even though the proposal to do so was first raised after the deaths of more than 1,500 people when the Titanic collided with an iceberg 100 years ago.

### **President Obama Drug Strategy Emphasizes Health, Prevention Issues**

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer | 01 May 2012

Washington — The Obama administration is presenting a new "21st-century approach to drug policy," based on the view that the 30-year-old "war on drugs" fails to recognize the complexity of the problem.

The new strategy is "progressive, innovative and evidence-based and represents the future of drug policy not just in the United States, but all over the world," said Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), speaking at the Center for American Progress in Washington May 1.

The social cost of the U.S. drug problem is severe in terms of health and safety, but the problem also consumes enormous public resources as drug offenders fall under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. The new strategy is based on three facts upheld by science, research and experience: addiction is a treatable disease; substance abusers can recover; and reforms in criminal justice can break the cycle of drugs leading to crime leading to incarceration and rearrest.

With a review of these facts, Kerlikowske said, the Obama administration saw a need for a different approach to drug policy, "one that treats drug addiction as a disease and promotes a criminal justice system where drug-related crime is addressed in a fair and equitable manner for every American." The drug policy director said public health and safety systems can be redirected so that individuals with drug problems are recognized and helped before their activities become a matter for the criminal justice system.

Kerlikowske said the Obama administration has invested more than \$31 billion in drug education and treatment programs since 2009, more than the budget for federal

law enforcement. With expansion of the "drug court" system, 120,000 nonviolent drug offenders have been directed into treatment and rehabilitation per year without going to jail.

"We cannot arrest our way out of the drug problem," said the ONDCP director, who has an almost 40-year history in law enforcement. He came to this position in the Executive Office of the President after serving as the police chief in Seattle.

On the international front, the Obama administration has allotted more than \$1.2 billion to development programs urging farmers into production of alternate, profitable crops while providing them with more security from drug gang pressure to continue to grow the coca used in cocaine or marijuana. Law enforcement efforts in the 2012 strategy also target violent transnational criminal organizations, Kerlikowske said, creating greater cooperation between agencies at the national, state and local levels.

Nations that have been U.S. partners in trying to control drug trafficking have also recognized that the old approaches were not working. "Let's look at the success in Colombia," Kerlikowske said. "Reductions in violence, in their economy and security ... the reduction in coca."

The drug policy director said he has visited rural Colombia and talked directly with a farmer who reports greater security growing crops promoted as alternatives to coca in U.S. assistance programs rather than being under the threat from drug cartels. "As a result of having this steady income [from legal crops], he said, it's better for my family and it's better for the safety and security of my village," Kerlikowske said.

Other Obama administration efforts to work with international partners on drug trafficking include implementation of new counternarcotics strategies on both the U.S.-Canada border and the U.S.-Mexico border. The ONDCP has also developed stronger international counterdrug partnerships with other Western Hemisphere nations, Russia and Afghanistan.

As the U.S. government applies new resources and strategies to treat substance abuse and eliminate drug trafficking, consumption of illicit drugs in the United States has declined by roughly one-third over the past 30 years. In the last six years, methamphetamine use has declined by half, and cocaine abuse has dropped by almost 40 percent.

### **Property Rights Key to Poverty Reduction**

By Kathryn McConnell | Staff Writer | 01 May 2012

Washington — Citizens' equal access to the ownership of

land and property is crucial to a country's economic development, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation reports.

"For a poor, rural family, access to a small farm plot can be vital to day-to-day survival, providing family members with food, household income and the possibility of working their way out of poverty," MCC states in its overview of its multiyear programs in property rights and land policy. It says that access to managed grazing areas can support a rural community's livestock and that property ownership can provide urban families with shelter and space to start businesses.

In addition, a well-functioning property rights and land system can help investors obtain land to start and expand businesses, MCC reports. The issue was discussed at an April 23 MCC forum in Washington.

As of the end of December 2011, the development agency had invested a total of about \$259 million in property rights projects in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mali, Namibia, Senegal, Liberia and Zambia.

Those countries used the funding to develop and implement new land legislation, launch land registry systems, form decentralized land-tenure administration agencies and strengthen existing agencies.

MCC-funded projects involve outreach to communities to teach citizens about their property rights and help local authorities learn to use modern technology that improves property rights systems.

The projects include teaching women about the services they can receive without their husband's permission. An MCC-funded project in Lesotho, for example, resulted in the repeal of laws that gave women the legal status of minors. The new laws gave women like Maleribe Leleka the right to use money she had saved from her earnings as a cleaner to buy the materials to build a house.

In Benin, MCC created a program to bolster microfinance institutions that in turn helped small and medium-sized businesses get access to banking services.

With MCC support, Benin now has some of the most sophisticated land-survey software and equipment in Africa. Benin has trained surveyors to use the equipment and is helping thousands of urban and rural residents to obtain property rights.

In Burkina Faso, MCC funded a project that led to a new law recognizing legitimate, previously unrecorded rights to land. And in Mali, MCC helped establish a property

registration office near a major irrigation project to issue titles to the improved farmland.

"These interventions have been innovative and, in some cases, unprecedented in MCC's partner countries," the agency reports.

### **Brennan Says al-Qaida's Core Badly Weakened**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer | 30 April 2012

Washington — White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan says current intelligence indicates that morale is low among members of the terrorist group al-Qaida and many of its members are giving up and returning home, believing it is a fight they will never win.

"In short, al-Qaida is losing badly," says John Brennan, assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism.

Brennan addressed the threat posed by al-Qaida in the year since its leader, Osama bin Laden, was brought to justice during a night raid on his compound in which he was killed. He told a Washington conference April 30 that al-Qaida has suffered heavy losses of its leadership so quickly that the group has had difficulty replacing them, and those chosen continue to make mistakes and give away operations before they can be started. Brennan said the United States and its allies and partners have been unrelenting in efforts to track, capture or destroy al-Qaida and its operatives wherever they are found to be operating.

For all of these reasons, Brennan said in remarks at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, it has become "harder than ever" for al-Qaida's core to plan and execute large-scale, potentially catastrophic attacks against the U.S. homeland.

"Today, it is increasingly clear that, compared to 9/11, the core al-Qaida leadership is a shadow of its former self," Brennan said. "Al-Qaida has been left with just a handful of capable leaders and operatives, and with continued pressure is on the path to its destruction."

But Brennan warned that while the al-Qaida core has disappeared, many of its affiliate groups and adherents continue to carry on the cause with extreme violence. For example, he said, elements of al-Qaida have merged with al-Shabaab in Somalia, but its focus is primarily on launching regional attacks while both organizations are in a steady decline.

In Yemen, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which was weakened by the death last year of Anwar al-Awlaki, its leader of external operations and chief

planner, continues to be al-Qaida's most active affiliate, Brennan said. That is part of the reason the United States continues providing support to the government of Yemen in its efforts against AQAP, which is being forced to fight for the territory it needs to plan attacks beyond Yemen.

Brennan said another al-Qaida affiliate, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), continues its efforts to weaken regional governments and engages in kidnapping of Westerners for ransom to fund its terrorist agenda.

More broadly, al-Qaida's killing of innocents — particularly Muslim men, women and children — has badly damaged its image and appeal to Muslims around the world, he added.

Despite the great progress that has been made against al-Qaida, the threat has not passed, Brennan said in prepared remarks made available by the White House to journalists. Al-Qaida and its affiliates still are intent on attacking the United States, he said. But the damage inflicted on al-Qaida's leadership combined with how it has alienated itself in much of the world has given the United States and its partners and allies reason to look forward.

"If the decade before 9/11 was the time of al-Qaida's rise, and the decade after 9/11 was the time of its decline, then I believe this decade will be the one that sees its demise," Brennan said. "This progress is no accident. It is a direct result of intense efforts over more than a decade, across two administrations, across the U.S. government and in concert with allies and partners."

The United States and its partners have been using every element in its pursuit of terrorist groups, which includes the power of U.S. values and commitment to the rule of law, Brennan said. Attorney General Eric Holder has discussed how U.S. counterterrorism efforts are rooted in and strengthened by adherence to the law, and Defense Department general counsel Jeh Johnson has addressed the legal basis for military efforts against al-Qaida. And Stephen Preston, the general counsel at the CIA, has discussed how the intelligence-gathering agency operates under U.S. law here and abroad, Brennan said.

As a result, the United States has been open regarding its counterterrorism policies and their legal justification, Brennan said. "As a matter of international law, the United States is in an armed conflict with al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated forces, in response to the 9/11 attacks, and we may also use force consistent with our inherent right of national self-defense," he said.

Brennan added that the U.S. Congress authorized the president "to use all necessary and appropriate force" against those nations, organizations and individuals

responsible for 9/11 in the course of responding to the terrorist attacks nearly 11 years ago.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)